



**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
**Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Meeting Date and Time:** April 18, 2013 at 1:00PM

**Meeting Location:** Appoquinimink State Service Center in Middletown, DE

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:**

Mr. Rodney Brittingham  
Ms. Aleks Casper  
Mr. C. Malcolm Cochran, Esquire  
Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen, Chair  
Cpl. Adrienne Owen  
Ms. Tania M. Culley, Esquire  
Ms. Patricia Dailey Lewis, Esquire  
Dr. Gerard Gallucci  
Ms. Marjorie Lynn Hershberger  
Dr. Amanda Kay  
Chief Kevin McDerby  
Ms. Leslie Newman  
Dr. Phillip Shlossman  
Margaret-Rose Agostino

**Others:**

Ms. Bridget Buckaloo

**Staff:**

Ms. Anne Pedrick  
Ms. Ashlee Starratt  
Ms. Angela Birney  
Ms. Elaine O'Neill

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen called the meeting to order at 1:07PM.

Dr. Colmorgen requested that approval of all reports be based off of a consent agenda. The Commissioners approved such request without objection.

**II. Old Business**

The meeting minutes from January 25, 2013, were accepted as written.

**III. New Business**

**a. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Pedrick advised the Commission on the status of the CBCAP (Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) Grant. As previously reported, the funds acquired through the CBCAP grant have been allocated to an abusive head trauma prevention program which consists of a thirty-two page reader friendly booklet in both English and Spanish, a DVD, as well as additional resources that will help support the parent. The Commission was informed that this program is breastfeeding friendly and therefore can be used within each of Delaware's birthing hospitals.

Mrs. Pedrick welcomed newly appointed commissioners Dr. Gerard Gallucci and Dr. Amanda Kay to the Commission. Dr. Gallucci will be representing the Department of Health and Social Services. Dr. Amanda Kay will fill the statutory role of pediatrician. Mrs. Pedrick continues to work with the Governor's Office for Commission representation from the New Castle County Police Department as well as the Chief Medical Examiner's Office.

**b. CDNDSC Annual Report**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year/Calendar Year 2012 was accepted without change.

**c. Joint Committee on the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse**

The next Committee meeting will be held on May 3, 2013, at the Appoquinimink State Service Center at 1:30PM. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the approval of the draft report. It is anticipated that with the approval of the Committee the report will then be presented to the Joint Commissions on May 17, 2013.

**d. Protect our Kids Act**

The Act established a twelve person committee with the charge of reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of child death and near death reviews on a national level. Full announcements of appointments are expected to be released soon.

**e. National Child Death Update**

Ms. Pedrick recently attended a Child Death Advisory Panel meeting in Washington D.C., the purview of which was to identify a matrix for effective child death reviews. However, due to the recent fiscal sequestration, the Advisory Panel limited to developing a presentation that would capture the history and importance of child death reviews.

Additionally, Ms. Pedrick informed the Commission that the national child death data base is in the process of being revamped. Revisions to this data base are being made by an organization under the auspices of NASA and will hopefully be launched in the summer of 2013.

**f. Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC)**

CPAC met on April 10, 2013. During this meeting, the CAPTA recommendations disseminated by CDNDSC were considered by CPAC. CPAC's responses to the recommendations are in the process of being drafted.

Mr. Cochran also provided a legislative update in which the Commission was informed that the proposed legislation on permanency for adolescents was approved.

The Training Committee continues with its work on Mandatory Reporting. As a result of the Mandatory Reporting training and other efforts, the Child Abuse Reportline has received 17,000 reports this fiscal year. Of those 17,000 reports, an estimated fifty percent were accepted for investigation. As a result of these numbers, an overwhelming increase in the caseloads has occurred both civilly and criminally. Although the statute places a cap on civil caseloads, it does not address criminal caseloads or the need for additional resources. With that said, CPAC supports appropriate Department of Justice (DOJ) budgetary requests for additional resources, to include the recruitment, addition and development of felony level prosecutors with expertise in the prosecution of felony level child abuse cases.

CDNDSC also supports the DOJ budgetary request for additional resources including felony level prosecutors. A letter of support shall be provided.

**g. Delaware Healthy Mother Infant Consortium (DHMIC)**

The DHMIC Annual Summit was held on April 17, 2013. During this Summit the Safe to Sleep Campaign, which will address public awareness and provider/professional responsibility, was launched. The media campaign, under the auspices of Worlds Ways, will also be incorporated into the Safe to Sleep Campaign. The title of the campaign has been dubbed *Long Live Dreams*. It is anticipated that the campaign will be launched by late spring.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to exit Executive Session.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 3:30PM.